



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY

For Release TUESDAY, APRIL 23, 1940.

FEDERAL JUDGES CRACK DOWN ON VIOLATORS OF GAME LAWS

Two Federal Judges, one in Minnesota and the other in North Carolina, recently delivered stinging rebukes to violators of Federal game regulations appearing in their courts and then imposed stiff fines and jail sentences, the Bureau of Biological Survey, United States Department of the Interior, announced today. "The price of future game law violations is going up in Federal Court in the State of Minnesota," declared Judge Robert C. Bell as he pronounced sentence on three hunters.

Dr. Edwin L. Warren, of St. Paul, was fined \$75, while Emory M. Norwell, of St. Paul, and Dr. William R. Jones, of Minneapolis, were fined \$40 each. Each was charged with shooting one mourning dove after hours.

"In many of our neighboring States I know that in Federal Courts fines of \$200 or more are common for violations of game laws," said Judge Bell. Due to our treaties with other countries, he added, the Federal courts must assume part of the responsibility of enforcing the game laws.

Judge Bell then served notice to all hunters that the price of game-law violations was going up.

Judge Isaac M. Meekins, presiding in Federal Court at Washington, North Carolina, followed a similar warning to game-law violators by sentencing six men to a total of 330 days in jail. In a previous case, Judge Meekins declared that the best way to control game-law violations was to give jail sentences and that he intended to be sterner with those who appeared in his court.

The following sentences were imposed by Judge Meekins: Frank Gibbs, of Englehard, 4 months in jail for selling 2 wild geese on December 5, 1939; Lloyd Neal, a minor of Lake Landing, 18 months probation for trapping fur animals on the Lake Mattamuskeet Wildlife Refuge at Swanquarter on December 5, 1939; Thomas Blount, of Swanquarter, 60 days in jail for shooting a wild goose during closed season on February 10; Willie Perry, of Scranton, 30 days in jail, and Abraham Ellison, of Scranton, 18 months probation, for shooting at wild ducks in a bean field during closed season on February 3, at Currituck.

The following were sentenced for trespassing and trapping fur animals on the Lake Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge at Swanquarter: Rosey Armstrong, of Fairfield, 30 days in jail; John C. Watson, of Fairfield, 18 months probation; Bernard Sawyer, of Swanquarter, 60 days in jail; and Jim Lucas, of Lake Landing, 30 days in jail.

The Minnesota violators were apprehended by Biological Survey game management agents with the cooperation of State wardens of the Minnesota Conservation Department. The North Carolina violators were apprehended by Survey agents and cooperating State wardens of the North Carolina Department of Game and Inland Fisheries.